

Racing at FOSSC, during Covid-19 conditions

So, we have a green light to go racing – yippee!!! Dust down your sails, mark your knuckles with ‘port’ on the left hand and ‘star’ on the right! However, as you will probably expect, we will do it slightly differently to normal.

What follows are the arrangements which we expect to be in place during July and August. Yes, there are likely to be a few details which need to be smoothed out as we get to grips with them, but let’s get racing and smooth them out as they arise. Key points are highlighted in the details below. In particular, please note that **the start times on Wednesdays have been temporarily changed, and there has been considerable change to the series which are being sailed on Wednesdays and Sundays**. I hope to return to normal from September, but we will have to see how we get on and what further relaxation or tightening of covid countermeasures are in place. As this is an evolving situation, please refer to the programme on the club website frequently in case there has been a need to change it. We will try to notify club members as soon as possible if there are changes.

I am working on the principle of ‘some racing is better than no racing!’ So, in the interests of getting this to all club members as quickly as possible, I have not diligently indicated which of our club Sailing Instructions have been amended. I’m hoping you will all be pleased to race and will accept the intent of these temporary arrangements. If anyone has a problem with this, please get in touch with me.

Finally, thank you to those of you (and your family members) who have volunteered to crew the rescue boat and do OOD duties – we would not race without you. If anyone has not volunteered, but would like to, please send me an email. Arrangements for crewing the rescue boat follow after the details of the racing arrangements.

May you all enjoy your own private gusts!
Rhonwen James
Sailing Secretary

Objectives of Revised Racing Arrangements:

- Maintain social distancing
- Reduce number of ‘contact points’ (different people touching the same thing)
- Enjoy competitive racing

The first two points above are obviously to minimise the chance of spreading the covid-19 virus. FOSSC is not aiming or claiming that all risk will be zero – that is not feasible. We are trying to reduce it as far as practically possible, while still allowing racing to go ahead.

Differences to normal, noting that these will change over time as we gain experience of different arrangements, and as government and RYA guidance changes

1. **No access to committee boat**
2. **No access to club house** for
 - a. course blackboard
 - b. signing on
 - c. getting masking tape and pen to write the course on
 - d. the OOD to input the results to Sailwave
3. **Trying to avoid congestion during launching and landing boats** to avoid social distancing problems or boats banging into each other/floating away (when helms will have to move

their own launching trolleys out of the way and recover the trolleys themselves when coming ashore)

Arrangements to overcome issues listed above

- a) Wednesday afternoon racing can continue as normal, i.e. no OOD, no rescue cover but rescue boat tied up on jetty ready to be used if required.
- b) No access to committee boat
 - i) **The OOD will be shore based** and start the Wednesday Evening and Sunday afternoon races from the main jetty.
 - ii) A red and white striped pole will be available and will stand in the trolley on the jetty to indicate one end of the start line.
 - iii) The buoy with the striped pole will be positioned by the rescue crew to mark the far end of the start line.
 - iv) Alternatively to iii) above, the OOD may choose to start the race between the striped pole on the main jetty and yellow (depending on wind conditions, and this would be useful for the handicap fleet in a class race; noted that it would involve hook starts/finishes).

Choice of iii), or iv) above needs to be marked on the course blackboard.
- v) The flag frame will be positioned on the jetty and used as per normal for both starting and finishing races.
- c) No access to clubhouse for course board or signing on
 - i) There will be **no requirement to sign on**. However, if the helm (or crew) is unknown to the OOD, it is their responsibility to ensure they tell the OOD who they are, otherwise results cannot be awarded to them (and they will be awarded to an 'unknown' competitor). (*Let's hope 'Unknown Competitor doesn't win too many trophies!*)
 - ii) The blackboard will be stored in the boat shed and displayed on the outside of the boat shed.
 - iii) There will be **no access to the club stock of masking tape and pens** so if anyone wants to write the course down they will need to supply these themselves.
- d) No access to clubhouse for the OOD to enter results into Sailwave
 - i) Blank results sheets will be in the OOD black box
 - ii) The OOD should ensure they take their own pens/pencils (they disappear frequently and the stock is in the clubhouse!)
 - iii) OODs need to ensure the results sheet is completely legible or typed.
 - iv) **OOD will send either a photo of the completed results sheet, or preferably type the results into a results sheet electronically** (to be sent by Rhonwen to the OOD) **and email it to Sue and Rhonwen** (email addresses to be provided)
 - v) It may take a few days for the results to appear on the website
- e) Avoiding congestion during launching and recovery
 - i) Initially, the racing programme will comprise a **pursuit race on a Wednesday evening, starting at 1800** (to try to avoid the evening calm as much as possible). A pursuit race helps with avoiding congestion while launching. Helms are asked to be extra considerate and patient when coming ashore to give people adequate time to move their boats off the slip way.
 - ii) Similarly, initially the **Sunday afternoon racing will comprise a pursuit race first, followed by a class race. The classes will start at 5 minute intervals**, instead of 2

minute intervals, again to reduce congestion when launching and coming ashore. The start sequence of signals will still be on the 4-2-go format for each class.

- f) It is noted that cleaning the OOD box and contents etc is not mentioned above. It is considered that with the gap between Wednesday and Sunday sailing, risk of contagion is minimised satisfactorily without requiring cleaning (and cleaning flags is impossible unless we take them home and wash them). The exception to this is on a Wednesday when two different people are likely to use the Pursuit box. After the Wednesday afternoon race, whoever has been touching the pursuit box and any associated items such as the trolley must wipe them down ready for use by someone else in the evening. The evening OOD is also advised to wipe items down.

There will be **no AOD rostered**. However, if the OOD has a member of their household who would like to help, then please do invite them along!

Revised Racing Programme for July & August 2020:

- **ProAm** is cancelled due to helm and crew not being from the same household.
- **Sunday 1400 race is a pursuit** running from 12 July to 26 July which will complete the Sunday Spring Pursuit Series, **then is a Personal Handicap Pursuit** as originally planned to end of August
- **Second race on a Sunday is a class race** (handicap, laser, solo) **starting at 5 minute intervals** to reduce congestion on the slipway. This will complete the Sunday Spring Class Series.
- I'd like to run at least 2 Sundays as above to see how it goes and iron out any issues, and then decide if we can also do a junior race.
- **Wednesday afternoon summer series** starts on 8 July and finishes 26 August. For July and August, it will **start at 1600** (not 1630)
- **Wednesday Evening** we will run a **pursuit series** starting 8 July to 12 August, then Wednesday Evening **Gold/Silver**, 19 August to 16 Sept, as per original plan. This is a change from a class race to a pursuit race to reduce congestion on the slipway. The **start time will be 1800** (not 1830) to avoid the evening calm as much as possible.
- Solo Open – cancelled

For info.....

Series sailed pre-lockdown:

- Sunday Icicle Pursuit (informal) – completed
- Wednesday afternoon Icicle Pursuit (informal) - completed
- Sunday Spring Class – 2 races out of 8 completed
- Sunday Spring Pursuit – 2 races out of 8 completed
- Club Championship – 1 day completed

Series which should be happening in July and August:

- Sunday Summer handicap, 2 races per day, 21 June to 26 July
- Sunday ProAm, thru August
- Sunday Personal Handicap Pursuit, thru August
- Sunday Junior Trophy, 14 June to 19 July
- Sunday Junior Cup, 26 July to 23 August
- Solo Open, August Bank Holiday weekend, Saturday
- Wednesday Afternoon Summer Series, 3 June to 26 August
- Wednesday Evening Summer Class, 3 June to 12 August
- Wednesday Evening Gold/Silver, 19 August to 16 Sept

Dory Safety Boat Operating Procedures

In developing the guidelines below, FOSSC have taken into consideration current advice from the Government and RYA. The most difficult aspect is how to balance the low, but possible, likelihood of someone getting into trouble on the water and requiring assistance from the rescue crew which increases the risk of transmission of covid, against the enjoyment which we all get from participating in social sailing and/or racing which for the vast majority of the time will not pose any risk of transmission of covid. While for several months, the risk of transmission of covid has been dominant, that risk has decreased significantly such that we now feel able to resume providing rescue cover for sailing activities, subject to the requirements detailed below.

At FOSSC, it is unusual to have to recover someone into the rescue boat – but it does happen from time to time. More often, the rescue crew will provide assistance by lifting the mast tip out of the water to help the helm right a boat; or pull the boat around to help righting, or pull the boat to get the mast out of the mud; or tow the boat back to the launching area due to equipment failure. (Just knowing the rescue craft is on hand can give someone the strength and confidence to get back in their boat on their own.) We believe that these types of ‘rescue’ can be done while maintaining suitable distance between rescuers and rescuees. If in a more serious event, someone needs to be taken into the rescue boat, we consider the risk of not allowing them to do so being more significant than the risk of transfer of covid. The ladder which has been fitted to the dory will greatly help someone getting into the rescue boat and reduce both contact between rescuer and rescuee and the heavy breathing which clambering into the rescue craft usually instigates in both parties.

Requirements for operation of rescue craft at FOSSC

1. Boat Storage. Boat to be stored in Boat Shed in following state to reduce physical handling:

- Unlocked
- Fuel can fitted and connected to engine.
- Key and kill cords fitted.
- Long blue two line fitted to bow cleats.
- Safety equipment to remain onboard.
- Designated committee member to check fuel status and refill if necessary.

2. Launching:

- Operating crew to agree whether or not to wear face masks and protective gloves.
- Crew to use their own buoyancy aids.
- Operating services (see section 5 below) to be cleaned using sanitizing wipes.
- Launching by designated crew.

3. Operation on the water:

- Boat to only approach another craft if required to affect a righting or to assist a person at risk.
- Recovery of a person from the water should be where possible, unaided using the ladder.
- Boats being recovered must be towed astern by at least a 2-meter tow rope.

4. Recovery of the safety boat.

- Social distancing to be maintained.
- Dory trolley to be put in water by member of the designated crew.

- Drag rope fitted to bow cleat to be laid up the slip way.
- Member of the designated crew to secure boat to its trolley.
- Other club members to assist by using the drag rope to pull boat (or attach to a car tow-bar).
- Designated crew to complete recovery to boat shed.

5. Cleaning.

- All operating surface to be cleaned using provided sanitizing wipes as:
 - Steering wheel
 - Gear Lever
 - Engine key
 - Fuel pressuring bulb.
 - Motor cover
 - Motor locking leaver
 - Seats
 - Trolley handles